

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6622
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
CYLINDER BLAST
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the LPG cylinder blast accident which occurred in Bangalore on April 3, 2002 as reported in Deccan Herald dated April 4, 2002 published from Bangalore ;
- (b) if so, the names of the oil company which supplied this cylinder; (
- (c) whether any responsible officer from the oil company enquired into this serious accident ;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof ;
- (e) whether defective cylinders are being supplied to the public; and
- (f) if so, the steps proposed to fix responsibility for this careless attitude on the part of the oil company ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (f) : It is learnt that the cylinder involved in LPG accident which occurred in Bangalore on April 3, 2002, belongs to a parallel marketeer. State Governments are empowered to take action against parallel marketeers.

Nitish Sengupta Committee had recommended, inter-alia, that Government should disinvest 33.6% share holding of IBP to a strategic partner i.e. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) directly as permissible under the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) take over guidelines. However, IBP Co. Limited was one of the companies referred to the Disinvestment Commission in September, 1996 and the Commission in its 5th report presented to Government, recommended that Government should disinvest 33.6% of the Company's equity out of Government holding of 59.6 % in IBP through strategic sale. The recommendation of Sengupta Committee and the report of Disinvestment Commission were examined by the Government and a final decision was taken to retain 26% of its equity in IBP and the balance to be disinvested to a strategic partner.